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SUBJECT: EASTERN DRC NOTES - JUNE 12

¶1. (U) The information contained in this report consists principally of spot reports from various sources. This cable is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time.

Anti-LRA Operations

¶2. (SBU) MONUC reported that 10 abductees escaped from the LRA in the past week, including three CAR citizens in Dungu and six DRC citizens and a CAR citizen in Gilima, northwest of Dungu.

¶3. (U) Military Chiefs of Staff from the DRC, Uganda, and the CAR met in Kisangani on June 11 to discuss anti-LRA operations. While noting that the military operations have been successful in breaking up the LRA, the CHODs told the press that they needed to improve the exchange of intelligence to fully neutralize the LRA. The LRA, the CHODs claimed, is limited to operations along the CAR-DRC-South Sudan border. The military officials also stressed that protection of civilians remains a top priority. MONUC Force Commander General Gaye attended the meetings.

¶4. (SBU) MONUC, FARDC, and UPDF held the second of a monthly series of consultative meetings. MONUC Deputy Chief of Staff Colonel Deacon was impressed with the quality of the UPDF's information on the LRA and the group's intentions. Deacon expressed interest in forging closer links with the UPDF to improve its ability to identify and track LRA units. Deacon added that, from what he had observed, it was clear that UPDF troops on the ground were fully committed to pursuing the LRA (Comment: MONUC's information on the LRA has always been lacking, so it brings very little value-added to the UPDF. However, it is a welcome development that the UPDF has apparently decided to coordinate more closely with MONUC. End Comment).

Security Situation in the Kivus

¶5. (U) SRSR Alan Doss told the press that Operation Kimia II was "evolving positively." Doss, who just returned from a visit to North and South Kivu, maintained that the FARDC had succeeded in cutting off FDLR access to most mining areas. He acknowledged that, since the FDLR had retreated into the forest in many areas, it remained uncertain what the group's intentions were. MONUC, according to Doss, will look to improve humanitarian access to affected areas.

¶6. (U) The night of June 9-10 FDLR elements attacked five villages (Mahibu, Kamishange, Mirenzo, Chirimiro, and Lahirenge) in the area of Mubugu, 80 kilometers north of Bukavu. The assailants looted the villages, raped four girls, but no one was reportedly killed.

¶7. (U) In Uvira in Fizi Territory, the FARDC's 12th Brigade and Mai Mai elements clashed the night of June 10-11. One FARDC was reported killed and one injured. The Mai Mai, under the command of

"General" Dunia, apparently were responding to a civilian, who had been robbed by a FARDC soldier. FARDC sources claimed that the soldier had been arrested and they called on Dunia to surrender the Mai Mai responsible for the FARDC casualties.

18. (SBU) MONUC reported that on June 10 the FDLR attacked a FARDC position in Kanyabayonga. Additional FARDC troops forced the FDLR to retreat, but errant fire from FARDC RPGs reportedly started a fire, which destroyed some 60 houses.

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